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SUBJECT: NETHERLANDS/UN: HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTIONS ON IRAN,  
FREE SPEECH

REF: SECSTATE 117357

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. PLEASE PROTECT ACCORDINGLY.

(SBU) The Dutch strongly support the EU effort to win approval of the Iran resolution but are disappointed with the U.S. decision to withdraw from the freedom of expression resolution. Angele Samura, at the Dutch MFA human rights department, told poloff on November 5 that the Dutch have instructed several embassies to join the French in demarching capitals in support of the Iran resolution. Samura agreed the vote on the Iran resolution would be tough, but welcomed Canada's decision to table the longer draft. Samura added that the Dutch were disappointed by the U.S. decision to withdraw from the free expression resolution, given the controversy in the Netherlands over Islam and recent art exhibitions that have offended some Muslim audiences.  
CULBERTSON